

SOMETHING FISHY HERE!

Sermon Notes 2.10.2019

Based on Luke 5:1-11

Verses 1 & 2: “While the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God, He was standing by the lake of Genneserat. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. And He got into one of the boats.”

****Remember, He’s a carpenter, not a fisherman, and he gets into the boat which happened to be Simon Peter’s. He says to Simon in Verse 3: “put out a little from the land, and he sat down and taught the people from the boat.”**

So, sitting at the other end of the boat is a fisherman—who was sweaty from a night’s work, exhausted!—very much aware of his weaknesses and his inability to make fish get into a net. So he’s listening, preoccupied with his own affairs—doesn’t say a word!

Verse 4: “And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon ‘Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.’” **Simon does seem resistant.**

Verse 5: “And Simon answered **MASTER (EPISTOTAES—meaning one who stands over the other, not “Lord” but Master, Teacher, Chief, Captain, it could mean “skipper” if we stretched it), Master, we toiled all night, and took nothing (He’s resisting). But, at your Word, I will let down the nets (Obedience).**”

So Peter cranked up the old Evinrude out board and headed out for blue marlin.

No, actually, Peter rowed back out, perhaps caught a little gust of wind that suddenly came up, which Ganneserat was known for...

Verse 6: “And when they had done this (**OBEDIENCE REAPS REWARDS**), they enclosed a great shoal (or **quantity**) of fish, and their nets were breaking...”

Verse 7: “They beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them...”

Here’s the scene in Verse 7:

“HEY! ANDREW! JOHN! You guys come over here! You’re not gonna believe this! We need your boat! Come over!” So they row their boat over there, and they start pulling the net up. “Put your foot up there, Jesus!” They’re pulling this net in the boats, tilting it to one side, and the net rolls into the boat like a ton of bricks!

The last part of Verse 7: “And they came and filled both the boats, so that they (plural, both boats) began to sink.” **Simon Peter saw this, taking it all in, and suddenly he forgot how tired he was. He has more fish than he’s ever seen in his boat, or in his brother’s boat, in their lives.**

Verse 8: “But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees saying ‘Depart from me for I am a sinful man oh **COORIOSS** (meaning Lord, he says Lord this time instead of Master).”

What this is all about, is people! That’s what’s on God’s heart, PEOPLE! Fish? He can fill a boat anytime!

Look at what He says to Peter in Verse 10: “And Jesus said to Simon ‘Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be...catching men.’”

Do you know what this says literally? “from now on you will be taking people alive (or for eternity, meaning never to die).”

Now don't miss this! Especially if you're sitting pretty good: you've managed to get a comfortable nest egg put aside, or you're into sports and you're in the apex of your sport, or you're in business and you've been very successful, or you've finally landed that position you've been waiting for all your life, or you finally build that new dream house, or that new car!

Verse 11: "And when they had brought their boats to land (loaded with fish remember!)...*THEY LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED HIM.*"

Peter walks away from more fish than he's ever seen in his life—to follow Christ!

Does that tell you something about the compelling nature of the IMPACT Jesus can have on your life, when you have a real encounter with Him?

I've picked out no less than 6 analogies from this wonderful section of scripture that we can use today. I will finish 6 sentences each with a special verb after Jesus:

1. **JESUS CHOOSES**...not to reach others by Himself.

Why is that significant? Because He could have, but He chooses not to. He deliberately involves us in His work.

Didn't He do that here (Verse 4: "Peter put out into the deep.")?

He could have rowed, but He had Peter do it; He could've dropped the nets himself, but He had Peter do it; He could've pulled up all those fish with one arm, but he let the others do it.

**He specifically states in Verse 10 "henceforth 'you' (specific pronoun), you will be catching men."

2. **JESUS USES**....the familiar to do the incredible!

For example: He came to them, He didn't beam them up to heaven, He came to the edge of the lake, which was the fishing world and their place of business. He had them use **THEIR** nets, **THEIR** boats, **THEIR** skills, **THEIR** trade.

Showing them that even in ordinary things, what can be accomplished through him is amazing!

3. **JESUS MOVES**....us from the safety of the visible (or seen) to trust Him in the un-seen.

Did you notice that none of the work was done in shallow water?

He could of done that! He could've said: **FISH! COME HERE!** And the beach would've been buried with fish.

Why the deep and not the shallow waters? There's an element of **WORK, EFFORT, UNCERTAINTY, and RISK**. He moves us from the shallow bay waters that all of us prefer, to the point where we can't see land anymore! But that's where He does the incredible!

4. **JESUS PROVES**....the potential by breaking our nets and filling our boats.

None of those men thought there were so many fish in that lake nor had they ever head of that many being caught—the potential was displayed. When God's hand is on a ministry, the potential is mind-boggling. It happens once in a while and it frightens the church to death: "What have we gotten ourselves into? What is **GOD** getting us into?"

5. JESUS CONCEALS....His blessing until we follow (OBEY) Him.

You see, everything was business as usual. Peter sitting, listening to the teaching, maybe dozing off. He's tired, and Jesus says "Psst, Simon, let's go out where it's deep." He wakes up and they go out. The water didn't glow, the boat didn't have a little rainbow over it or a halo, He didn't bring nets from heaven that tingled when you touched them.

The blessing came ONLY when—in that same old crummy boat they'd been in all night, using the same old crummy nets that had come up empty all night—they obeyed his command, putting out into the deep and letting down their nets. ONLY THEN DID HE GO FROM CAPTAIN TO LORD!

In the safety of your shallow water you will never risk sharing your faith and getting involved with someone who needs Jesus because you've got a lot going on in your own life, so why risk it?

Because your life's going to be changed. Some of us know our bank accounts better than we have a plan for giving. You're safe—you're set—you're secure! You take care of that!

You've been taught to do that! It's never dawned on us to give to the point of sacrifice. We might get in over our heads, we might have to trust JESUS!

6. JESUS REVEALS....His will ONLY to those who are willing to surrender theirs.

In the middle of all these fish, when they're struggling to make their back to the shore: The Lord says to Peter, "Hey pal, you're going to be catching men! You like fish? Wait until we're waist-deep in soul!"

My regret is that most of us, after hearing this, will still pass up the Blessing and vote for the security. Still stay in shallow water, still go through the Sunday motions.

Jesus will give His surprises top the few who are saying: "Let's do it your way," "You want my summer, it's yours!," "You want my business, it's yours!," "You want my marriage, it's yours!," "You want my life, you got it!," "You want my future—here I am!"

Amen.